



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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July 13, 2001

Dr. Ghassem R. Asrar, Associate Administrator
Office of Earth Science
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASA Headquarters, Code YO
300 E. St. SW
Washington D.C.

Dear Dr. Asrar:

This grant proposal brings together various state agencies including the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Division of Conservation, Office of Geographic Information and Morehead State University with federal agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service, with responsibilities over Kentucky ground. In the current fiscal environment with shrinking budgets and governments expected to do more with less, this kind of project is a good example of identifying a common need between governments and agencies and brokering the partnerships necessary to achieve the desired results.

There is a real need for understanding the ability of the remote sensing discipline to discern broad forest classes and extents in very complex communities such as those which cover the landscape in Kentucky. It is also very important to understand how remote sensing can be used in Smart Growth analysis (which is one of my initiatives in Kentucky) to discern the change in the use of land in and around urban areas. The majority of smaller urban areas in Kentucky and many places in the United States still do not practice planning and zoning. A good land use/land cover map such as the one identified in the Kentucky grant proposal is one of the instruments that will provide our local governments a place to start. We are confident that the methodology proposed in this project can be transferred to other places in the country which – like many areas in Kentucky - do not have the necessary data resources to begin tracking and planning changes in the landscape.



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/D

DR. GHASSEM R. ASRAR

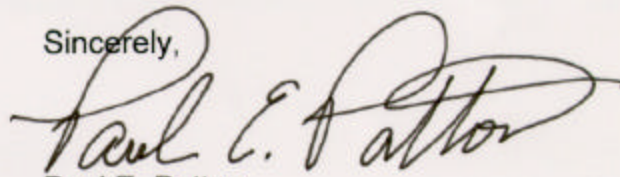
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The results of this project will be very useful to all of the grant partners. It will make monitoring landscape change and decisions regarding the environment and built landscape in the Commonwealth a little easier because we will have a current accurate view of the landscape.

We think that results of this project will contribute to the body of work that the NASA State Local and Tribal Government Initiative means to engender. We are proud to submit this grant with the Governor's Office for Technology, Office of Geographic Information as the Principal Investigator to NASA.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Patton